



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

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Testimony before The Transportation Committee

by

Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut

Second Vice President
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The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford
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Good afternoon *Senator DeFranzo, Representative Guerarra*, and Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Leslie Simoes and I am the Assistant Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 58-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout Connecticut.

Secretary
Lori Baer
The Arc of Litchfield County
Torrington

I am here this morning to testify in favor of two bills:

Treasurer
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Middletown

**SB 410 AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO TRANSPORT
PATIENTS OR CLIENTS UNDER THE CARE, CONTROL OR
CUSTODY OF A STATE AGENCY**

Immediate Past President
Ken Cholewinski
SARAH Seneca
Gulford

**SB 409 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM USING
CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF
STATE AND MUNICIPAL LAWS CONCERNING PARKING FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THAT LIMIT OR IMPAIR THE
ABILITY TO WALK AND PERSONS WITH BLINDNESS**

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The first bill, SB 410, has significant meaning for The Arc of Connecticut and this is our third year before this committee in favor of this concept. The first part of the bill would require stricter safeguards for individuals with disabilities supported by state DDS workers and we still agree, as we have for three years, that these safeguards are important to those who receive services from state facilities.

The second part of the bill is new this year and comes in response to our opponent's testimony that the bill would cost too much. There are other state agencies that have the capacity to run licensure checks on a monthly basis. The infrastructure exists and should be shared across state agencies.

The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters: Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / The Arc of Farmington Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / The Arc of Litchfield County / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC: Community Resources, Portland / The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / The Arc of Greater New Haven / The Arc of New London County / Options, Unlimited / The Arc of Plainville / The Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Gulford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR, Norwalk / The Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

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In this time when everyone is looking to save money and streamline shrinking resources this bill offers an opportunity to do just that. Sharing resources makes good fiscal sense, a small pilot could make a difference and The Arc of Connecticut urges the members of this committee to vote favorably.

SB 409 would establish a pilot program to enforce state and municipal laws concerning parking for persons with disabilities. Most of us have noticed a car parked in a handicapped parking space without a permit or a person with a disability being transported in the car. These parking spots are valuable and often necessary for the people who use them. This bill will allow average citizens to assist with monitoring these spaces. The Arc urges the members of this committee to vote favorably on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of you today.